

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A method for loading a plurality of liquid samples into a plurality of through-hole arrays, the liquid samples residing in wells of a microtiter plate characterized by a well-to-well spacing, the through-hole arrays characterized by a hole spacing that is an integral fraction of the well-to-well spacing of the microtiter plate, the method comprising:

stacking the plurality of through-hole arrays in registration;

a. —positioning an array of transfer members, each transfer member disposed for drawing liquid from a distinct well of the microtiter plate;

b. —drawing liquid samples from the wells of the microtiter plate to each of the transfer members;

c. —registering the array of transfer members with a subset of through-holes of the through-hole arrays; and

d. —dispensing the liquid samples from the transfer members into through-holes of the through-hole arrays;

thereby depositing liquid samples from each transfer member into a plurality of through-holes.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of dispensing the liquid samples from the transfer members includes expelling liquid from a capillary.

4. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of dispensing the liquid samples from the transfer members includes expelling liquid from tubing of a pipette.

5. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of dispensing the liquid samples from the transfer members includes expelling liquid by means of a syringe.

6. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of drawing liquid samples from the wells of the microtiter plate includes drawing liquid into a capillary.
7. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of drawing liquid samples from the wells of the microtiter plate includes drawing liquid into tubing of a pipette.
8. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of drawing liquid samples from the wells of the microtiter plate includes drawing liquid by means of a syringe.
9. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein during the step of dispensing the liquid samples from the transfer members, surface tension draws fluid into the through-holes.
10. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein during the step of dispensing the liquid samples from the transfer members, surface tension holds fluid in the through-holes.
11. (New) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of through-hole arrays is separated by a distance  $s$ , wherein  $s$  is a non-zero dimension.
12. (New) A method in accordance with claim 11, wherein  $s$  is less than the hole spacing of the plurality of through-hole arrays.
13. (New) A method in accordance with claim 11, wherein the array transfer members are positioned in proximity to an outermost through-hole array and a fluidic bridge is established between registered holes in the plurality of through-hole arrays.